

REMARKS

Claims 21–37 are pending in the present application following amendment as proposed herein.

Claim 21 is the only independent claim now presented. Recitation in Claim 21 of “a therapeutic method comprising causing a ... subject having a medically diagnosed dementia to use as a cognitive activity aid a kit that comprises a plurality of pieces that individually have a surface layer formed of a soft fabric, and collectively exhibit differing tactility when handled by the subject; wherein ... said use provides a therapeutically beneficial cognitive challenge appropriate to the subject’s mental acuity” is found also in the allowed claims of the parent application. The requirement, now added, that the subject be “an adult” subject finds support in the specification at least at page 22, line 25. The requirement, now added, that the pieces are “suitable for arrangement by the subject” finds support in the specification at least at page 11, line 20. The requirement, now added, that the pieces can be used by the subject “in a simple assembly or construction pastime, puzzle or game” finds support in the specification at least at page 5, lines 9–11. The requirement, now added, that “said kit has means for engaging said pieces to other such pieces or on a rack” finds support in the specification at least at page 15, lines 5–6 and page 4 lines 6–7; and the requirement, now added, that “wherein when so engaged the pieces resist accidental disarrangement” finds support in the specification at least at page 11 lines 22–23.

Claims 22, 23 and 25, reciting respectively that the kit has means for engaging the pieces to other such pieces (Claim 22), that the engaging means comprises an attaching means in an edge region of each of the pieces, the attaching means not requiring a high level of cognitive and/or manual dexterity (Claim 23), and that the pieces are patches, each patch being attachable along an edge thereof to one or more other patches to form a patchwork article (Claim 25), find support in the specification at least at page 15, lines 5–6. An embodiment of the invention covered by Claim 25 is illustrated in Fig. 3.

Claim 24, reciting a Markush group of attaching means, finds support in the specification at least at page 16, lines 1–16.

Claim 26, reciting that the kit further comprises a rack, and has means for

engaging the pieces at a plurality of loci on the rack, finds support in the specification at least at page 4, lines 6–7.

Claim 27, reciting that the rack comprises a frame defining a shape of an aperture adapted to receive a plurality of the pieces, said plurality of pieces being individually of such sizes and shapes as to fit together to form the shape of the aperture, finds support in the specification at least at page 17, line 27 – page 18, line 17. An embodiment of the invention covered by Claim 27 is illustrated in Fig. 6.

Claim 28, reciting that the rack comprises a frame having a plurality of apertures, each adapted to receive one of the pieces, finds support in the specification at least at page 18, lines 18–19. Embodiments of the invention covered by Claim 28 are illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5.

Claim 29, reciting that such a kit can be used to play a simple game, finds support in the specification at least at page 19, line 27.

Claim 30, reciting that the rack comprises a plurality of pegs arranged to define a plurality of receiving areas for the pieces, finds support in the specification at least at page 20, lines 27–29.

Claim 31, reciting that the pieces each comprise a swatch of soft fabric perforated by a plurality of eyelets in an arrangement adapted to engage the pegs, finds support in the specification at least at page 21, lines 11–13. Embodiments of the invention covered by Claims 30 and 31 are illustrated in Fig. 7.

Claim 32, reciting that pieces have opposing surface layers formed of soft fabrics having differing tactility, finds support in the specification at least at page 9, lines 15–16.

Claim 33, reciting a Markush group of soft fabrics, finds support in the specification at least at page 7, lines 16–17.

Claim 34, reciting that at least one soft fabric forming a surface layer is a piliferous fabric, finds support in the specification at least at page 3, lines 16–17.

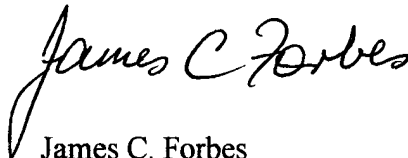
Claim 35, reciting that the piliferous fabric is made from natural and/or synthetic fibers, finds support in the specification at least at page 8, lines 11–12.

Claim 36, reciting a Markush group of such piliferous fabrics, finds support in the specification at least at page 8, lines 12–14.

Claim 37, reciting that the piliferous fabric is a fur or simulation thereof, finds support in the specification at least at page 8, lines 15–24.

No new matter is introduced by the amendments proposed herein and no change in inventorship results therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Forbes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J'.

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